

Department of Pesticide Regulation

Programmatic Reductions During the 2002-03 Budget Year

For the 2001-02 fiscal year, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) budget was \$63 million, \$49.5 million for State operations, the remainder providing partial funding of County Agricultural Commissioner programs. The Department 2002-03 budget of \$56.7 million (\$41.2 million for State operations) reflected a loss of \$3 million in General Fund support and the remainder a shortfall in the DPR Fund. These reductions forced the Department to make a number of program and staffing adjustments. (Local assistance was not affected.) Spending was further curtailed during the course of the fiscal year with the loss of an additional 41.5 vacant positions, representing \$2.3 million in savings.

The depth and breadth of these reductions has meant that few programs could be spared. DPR placed the highest priority on mandated programs related to enforcement and protecting public health. DPR placed particular emphasis on preserving worker protection activities. Reductions in monitoring programs forced an evaluation of the respective responsibility of DPR and of registrants to monitor problematic pesticides. As a consequence, DPR will focus its limited monitoring resources on situations in which a determination must be made whether an unacceptable risk exists that may require regulatory action. Monitoring programs designed to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures or to determine the scope of unacceptable exposures will be primarily the responsibility of the registrants of the products in question. The Department will consider using its reevaluation authority to generate data needed to answer significant regulatory questions.

This summarizes programmatic changes reflected in the 2002-03 budget reductions.

SPACE CONSOLIDATION \$330,000 / 0 POSITIONS

Consolidating DPR operations to two floors of the Cal/EPA building saved \$330,000 in annual rent.

REGISTRATION \$990,000 / 15 POSITIONS

To allow the Department to continue efforts to share registration workload on certain products with U.S. EPA, DPR eliminated a program that allowed companies to apply for registration of reduced-risk pesticides before the product was registered federally. A similar program for label amendments for microbial and biochemical products was also eliminated. DPR also reduced its review of toxicology data for adverse effects determinations.

PEST MANAGEMENT \$1,478,000 / 0 POSITIONS

Funding for the Pest Management Grants and Pest Management Alliance programs was eliminated. Eight previously funded Alliance and 11 grant projects are still active in 34 counties.

SCHOOL IPM \$50,000 / 0 POSITIONS

Training of school personnel and surveying of pest management practices on school premises were scaled back.

PRODUCE MONITORING \$698,000 / 0 POSITIONS

The number of samples taken annually in this program to detect illegal residues in fresh produce was reduced from 8,000 samples to 3,600 samples. All sampling by county agricultural commissioners was eliminated. There were also significant reductions in laboratory services for food residue analysis.

RISK ASSESSMENTS/TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANTS (TACs) \$408,000 / 5 POSITIONS

The elimination of one-third of the scientists who conduct risk assessments necessitated an evaluation of how the Department is to carry out its risk assessment mandates. DPR's goals are to ensure that the remaining risk assessors can focus on pesticides posing the greatest risk, that DPR's science achieves the highest quality, and that processes become as efficient as possible. DPR will fulfill its risk assessment and peer review mandates by conducting a single aggregate risk assessment for each chemical. It will not prepare a scheduled number of specific TAC documents. Instead, based upon the results of the comprehensive risk assessment, DPR will decide whether to pursue the TAC review and listing process.

Programmatic Reductions During the 2002-03 Budget Year

AIR PROGRAM

\$425,000 / 4 POSITIONS

A 19 percent loss in program resources means that sample collection and analysis will be cut by 60 percent. Also to be scaled back are efforts to develop analytical methods for fumigants and other pesticides, and the initiation of mitigation for pesticides listed as TACs will be delayed. Environmental fate descriptions for risk assessments and conducting field studies to quantify public exposure to pesticides will also be delayed.

GROUND WATER PROGRAM

\$368,000 / 1 POSITION

An 18 percent loss in program resources will result in 40 to 50 percent fewer samples collected and analyzed compared to the previous fiscal year. The reduction will hinder the effort to develop analytical methods, sample ground water for pesticide contamination, develop mitigation measures, and demonstrate the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

SURFACE WATER PROGRAM

\$1,925,000 / 7 POSITIONS

The reduction represents 48 percent of the total resources allocated to this program. Specifically, the reductions:

- Eliminate resources for conducting bioassessment studies in the San Joaquin River Delta region. Bioassessment studies would assess actual adverse effects of pesticides and provide a stronger scientific basis for regulatory actions to protect the environment. Total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) will continue to be developed based on chemical analyses and toxicity testing.
- Eliminate contracts that supported the Regional Water Quality Control Boards' monitoring activities for the development and implementation of TMDLs for pesticides.
- Reduce toxicity testing by 50 percent.
- Reduce chemical analysis by 30 percent.
- Reduce urban source identification and outreach activities by 49 percent.

E-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

\$126,000 / 2 POSITIONS

These reductions will delay the development and deployment of improvements to the pesticide use reporting program, pesticide registration process, and online licensing transactions via the State's e-Business Office Web portal.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

\$149,000 / 3 POSITIONS

Positions were consolidated, eliminating an information officer and clerical positions.

DPR STAFFING

- Authorized staffing now 358.6, reduced by a total of 78.5 positions
- 37 positions lost in the programmatic reductions described above
- An additional 41.5 positions lost (representing \$2.3 million in savings) when fiscal constraints mandated a governmentwide elimination of vacant positions

In making the first round of staffing reductions (cutting 37 positions), the Department had the discretion to target reductions to try to minimize impacts on critical programs. The vacancy reduction plan (when 41.5 positions were lost) allowed little flexibility and seriously impacted high-priority areas of enforcement, worker safety, and information technology:

Enforcement, worker protection, and legal	12
Environmental monitoring	7
Administrative functions/program services	10.5
e-Government/IT governance	9
Registration	1
Licensing, pest management	2